

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 112355Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2005
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0071

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, XF
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM/HERZOG CONVERSATION ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE
CONFERENCE JANUARY 11

REF: USUN 0055

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SYG WALDHEIM AND ISRAELI PERM REP
HERZOG MET JANUARY 11. THEY DISCUSSED INTER ALIA SCHEDULE
OF WALDHEIM'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS
FOR MEPC. END SUMMARY.

2. AMB. HERZOG MET WITH SYG WALDHEIM FOR APPROXIMATELY
ONE AND THREE-QUARTER HOURS ON JANUARY 11 WHEN THEY
DISCUSSED ISRAELI POLITICAL SITUATION AND OTHER EVENTS
IN THE ME(PLO DEVELOPMENTS), AS WELL AS SYG'S UP-COMING
TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST CAPITALS AND POSSIBLE MODALITIES FOR
CONVENING MEPC. ISRAELI POLITICAL COUNSELOR LAMDAN, WHO
TOOK NOTES, PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING.

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3. WALDHEIM SAID HE WAS TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO
LEAVE NEW YORK CITY ON FEBRUARY 1, FLYING VIA
EUROPE, ARRIVING CAIRO ON FEBRUARY 2. AFTER
VISITING CAIRO HE WOULD PROCEED TO DAMASCUS, THEN
TO BEIRUT FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY ABOUT FEBRUARY 7
(WHICH COULD INCLUDE AN OVERNIGHT IF ACCOMMODATIONS
COULD BE OBTAINED) AND THEN TO AMMAN AND FINALLY

ARRIVING IN ISRAEL ABOUT FEBRUARY 10 OR 11. WALDHEIM PLANS TO RETURN TO CAIRO ON FEBRUARY 11 OR 12. HIS SCHEDULE WOULD BE OPEN THEREAFTER TO RETURN TO ISRAEL IF THERE WERE A NEED, OTHERWISE HE WOULD PLAN TO LEAVE THE AREA ON FEBRUARY 13, RETURNING TO NYC ON FEBRUARY 14. HERZOG TOOK NOTE OF THE SUGGESTED SCHEDULE AND POSED NO OBJECTION.

4. TURNING TO POSSIBLE TIMING OF THE MEPC, WALDHEIM AND HERZOG DISCUSSED A FIRST OPTION WHEREBY IN LATE SPRING A CEREMONIAL OPENING WOULD TAKE PLACE FOLLOWED BY A BREAK FOR ISRAELI ELECTIONS. THEN IN EARLY JUNE, AFTER A NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED, MEPC WOULD PROCEED TO THE REAL BUSINESS. A SECOND OPTION WOULD BE TO DO AWAY WITH THE CEREMONIAL OPENING AND WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS SETTLED IN, AGAIN AIMING FOR A JUNE DATE, THE PROCEED TO THE MEPC. WALDHEIM NOTED THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER THE EGYPTIANS WOULD ACCEPT THE SECOND OPTION BUT HE WOULD EXPLORE THIS WITH THEM NEXT MONTH.

5. WALDHEIM REFERRED AGAIN TO WORKING GROUPS, TO WHICH HERZOG REPLIED THAT FIRST THINGS MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRST, BUT CLEARLY ISRAEL WOULD NOT ACCEPT A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION.

6. AT LATER POINT, WALDHEIM REMARKED THAT HE WOULD BE VISITING LEBANON PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION
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WITH THE UN RELIEF ACTIVITIES, BUT HE PLANS ALSO TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS. AS TO LEBANON'S PARTICIPATING IN THE MEPC AT A LATER STAGE, WALDHEIM DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ATTACHING ANY PRIORITY AT THIS TIME TO THIS POSSIBILITY.
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